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The Newspaper of Tangipahoa, St. Helena, and Eastern Livingston Parishes

MONDAY MOJO EDITION

44th Year, No. 95 · Monday, September 22, 2025 · ONE DOLLAR

North Oaks Introduces Building 3

Tangi Times Report

Community leaders joined North Oaks executives and employees on a cool Friday, September 19, morning to celebrate the official opening of Building 3 – the five-story, 96,000-square-foot clinic that represents a $50 million investment by North Oaks in expanding access to coordinated specialty healthcare in our region.

The new facility houses 20 providers across nine specialties, including endocrinology, ENT and allergy, eye care, infusion services, oncology/hematology, neurology, neurosurgery, urology and pain management. The facility also brings together under one roof the amenities of a blood draw lab, optical shop, prescription center and PJ's Coffee's second location on the hospital campus.

North Oaks President and CEO Michele K. Sutton welcomed the attendees, including many special guests who arrived to be a part of the historic event.

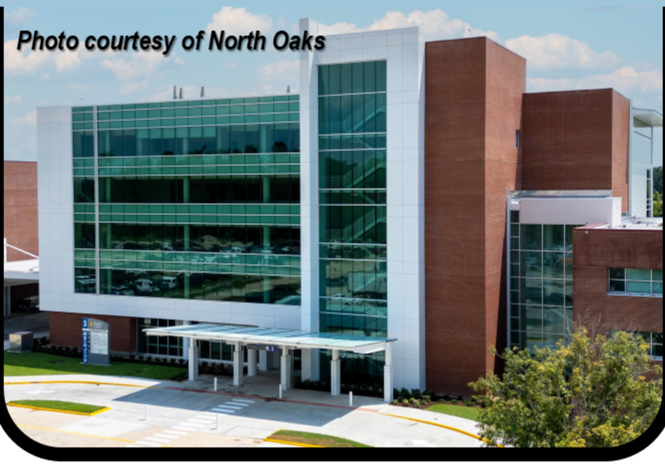


Photo courtesy of North Oaks

"This building represents more than expansion — it's a promise to our community to keep care local, accessible and future-ready," said Sutton. "We've built this facility to meet our region's growing needs today and for decades to come."

"From eye care and neurology to cancer treatment and infusion therapy," Sutton continued, "North Oaks Clinic Building 3 is designed to make your healthcare journey easier, more connected, and more compassionate."

Over the past three years, North Oaks has added more than 900 new jobs and recruited over 60 specialized providers in cardiothoracic surgery, cardiac electrophysiology, hematology and oncology, hospital medicine, general surgery, infectious disease, interventional radiology, obstetrics and gynecology, orthopedics, otolaryngology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, primary care, plastic surgery, pulmonology, neurosurgery and trauma surgery. North Oaks employs nearly 3,200 healthcare professionals overall and maintains an average annual payroll and benefit package of $332 million.

In his keynote address, Tangipahoa Parish President Robby Miller praised North Oaks as a catalyst for regional growth.

"North Oaks is the largest independent hospital service district in the state, and its impact on Tangipahoa Parish as a strategic partner is tremendous in terms of growth," Miller lauded. "With

See BUILDING 3 on Page 6

Healthy Hearts and Honest Conversations

By STEFANIE BROOKE • Tangi Times Community Journalist

Love, first crushes, peer pressure, and those awkward texting moments — teen dating is one of those rites of passage that can be magical, confusing, or sometimes both at once.

On Tuesday, September 23, 2025, the Kentwood Branch Library will host an interactive workshop presented by SAFE (Southeast Advocates for Family Empowerment) that's all about helping both teens and their families find some balance. Whether you're a parent scratching your head over changing friendships, or a teen wondering "Is this dating thing supposed to feel like this?", this event is designed for you.

The workshop runs from 5:30 to 6:30pm and aims to open up honest conversations about what healthy and unhealthy dating styles look like, how peer pressure plays into it all, and how families can build communication tools that work.

14
LOVE
I
YOU!

The evening won't be a dry lecture. Instead, it will be an open, interactive discussion with practical resources and opportunities to ask those awkward questions that usually get brushed under the rug.

Teen dating today isn't like those old movies where a milkshake with two straws solved everything. Social media, emojis, ghosting, and group chats have changed the landscape, and SAFE's program helps families keep up.

Many young people struggle to recognize emotional manipulation, controlling behavior, or digital abuse when they first experience it. Workshops like this one give them tools and language to better understand what's happening and how to respond.

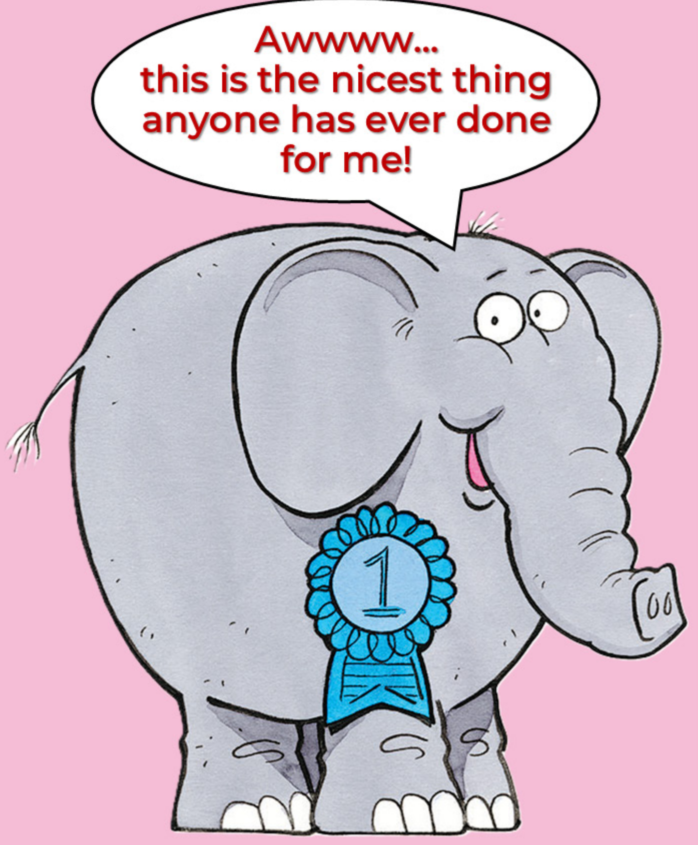
Peer pressure is another big piece of the puzzle. Teens often feel pulled in several directions at once: what friends are doing, what seems cool, what a partner might expect.

Parents may remember that feeling but don't always know how to help their kids handle it today. By joining this session, families can gain practical strategies for navigating those pressures without the eye rolls and slammed bedroom doors.

Communication is often the trickiest part of all. Parents want to talk but sometimes don't know where to start, while teens may worry about being judged or misunderstood. SAFE's approach is about breaking down that wall and giving both sides ways to talk about boundaries, consent, respect, and even the role of technology in relationships.

See HEARTS on Page 5

Today is National Elephant Appreciation Day!


Awwww...
this is the nicest thing anyone has ever done for me!
1

The Tangi Times

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What's inside this issue?

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Our Wild, Wild World

SLITHERY THINGS
So misunderstood!

and much more!

One Dollar

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MEME MOJO

Hey, I like someone, but I don't know how to tell her.

Just ask her to a movie.

Okay. Would you like to go to a movie?

No – I meant ask her.

I just did.

Oh, that's good. What did she say?

Ugh.

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I used to be young and cool.
Now I say things like,
"I better sit up so I don't get heartburn."

Just Saying

The Tangi Times

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Tonya Aiken

PALINDROME *du jour*

Oozy rat in a sanitary zoo

A palindrome is a word, phrase, or sentence that reads the same backward as it does forward. If you have a favorite palindrome, send it to publisher@tangitimes.com.

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Back in My Day

By
Burl "Two-Toes" Jenkins

Back in my day, fall football wasn't the polished spectacle you kids know now. No sir, we didn't have instant replay – we had instant regret. If you missed a play, too bad — you had to ask ol' Earl in the stands what happened, and Earl was three beers deep and only half paying attention. According to him, every single down was a touchdown.

We didn't have fancy stadium seating either. We sat on cold metal bleachers that left waffle prints on the backs of our legs.

And don't even get me started on the "stadium food." Concessions back then meant a guy named Buck walking around with a Coleman cooler full of lukewarm hot dogs. If you wanted mustard, you had to bring it from home and share with the whole section.

These days, football players wear uniforms so high-tech they look like they're about to blast off to the moon. Back then, the helmets were barely thicker than a soup can, and half the team borrowed pads from their cousins. If somebody got tackled hard enough, their helmet spun around like a Lazy Susan, and the coach just yelled, "Shake it off, son!"

And the cheerleaders? Nowadays they've got choreographed routines with glitter and smoke machines. Our cheer squad had one move: yelling "Go!" until they were hoarse.

The halftime show wasn't a pop star — it was a tractor parade, and if you were lucky, the band had enough clarinets that year to play "When the Saints Go Marching In" without Cousin Jeb filling in on kazoo.

But the thing I miss most about fall football is the drama. Every Friday night was like Shakespeare with shoulder pads.

The whole town showed up, even folks who didn't know a football from a meatball. Old Mrs. Crawfish, who was nearly 90, used to sit in the front row with a cowbell the size of a skillet, ringing it so loud the referees' ears rang clear into Sunday.

And you don't want me to start up on tailgating. You kids have tricked-out RVs with flat screens. We had Bubba's pickup truck, a charcoal grill, and whatever wild game Uncle Dwayne "accidentally" hit with his truck that week.

Ever had raccoon chili? No? Count your blessings.

So yes, back in my day, fall football was messy, loud, and half the time smelled like gasoline and roadkill possum stew. But it was ours, and we loved every second of it.

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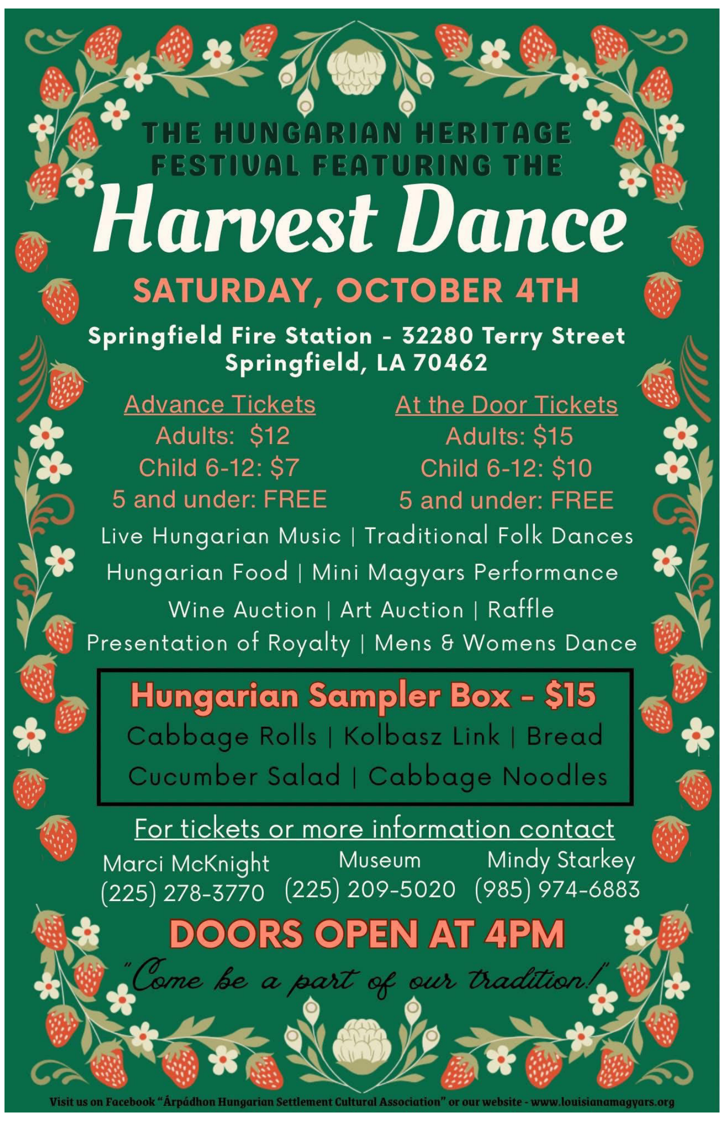

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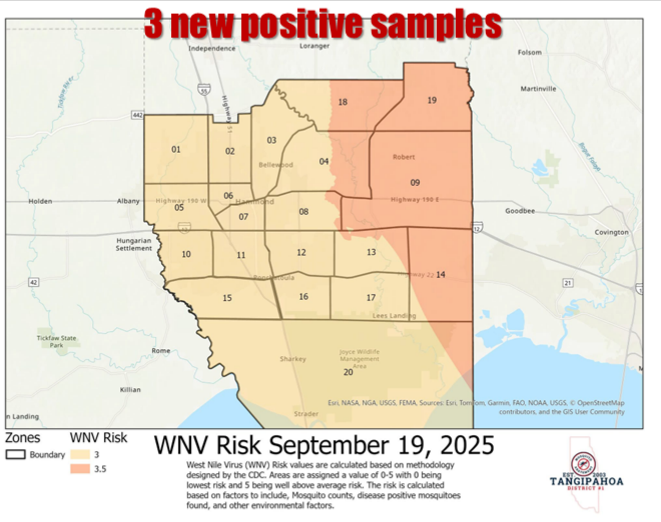
Of the 1,695 samples tested thus far in 2025, 202 have returned positive for WNV.


3 new positive samples
Zones
Boundary
WNV Risk
3
3.5
WNV Risk September 19, 2025
West Nile Virus (WNV) Risk values are calculated based on methodology designed by the CDC. Areas are assigned a value of 0-5 with 0 being lowest risk and 5 being well above average risk. The risk is calculated based on factors to include, Mosquito counts, disease positive mosquitoes found, and other environmental factors.
TANGIPAHOA

The Tangipahoa Mosquito Abatement District is asking all residents to perform basic defense methods to help protect against the presence of disease. Methods include wearing long sleeves, limiting time outdoors at dusk and dawn, emptying standing water, and using repellant with DEET or Picaridin (15% lasts 2-4 hrs, 20-50% for 5-8 hrs.). There have been two reported human cases in our district this year. Visit www.tangimosquito.org for more information and advice to reduce mosquito activity.

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RED RIBBON WEEK
Tangipahoa

Op-Ed

Submitted to The Tangi Times

Trump and Kennedy are Placing Patients First

By JEFF CROUERE

In 2019, President Donald Trump issued a sweeping Executive Order, 13877 that placed the needs of patients first. It called for hospitals to provide price transparency for patients. This was the type of healthcare cost reform that was needed for decades, as prices were often hidden from patients.

Pursuant to the 2019 Executive Order, the Trump administration "issued paradigm-shifting regulations to put patients first by requiring hospitals and health plans to deliver meaningful price information to the American people. These regulations require hospitals to maintain a consumer-friendly display of pricing information for up to 300 shoppable services and a machine-readable file with negotiated rates for every single service the hospital provides; health plans to post their negotiated rates with providers as well as their out-of-network payments to providers and the actual prices they or their pharmacy benefit manager pay for prescription drugs; and health plans to maintain a consumer-facing internet tool through which individuals can access price information."

If implemented, one 2023 economic study estimated that these sensible regu-

(SEE OP-ED PAGE 5)

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TANGI GUMBO

A little bit of everything you need to know

The Hammond Police Department is investigating a September 8 burglary at Walmart, 2799 West Thomas Street, in which an unidentified suspect stole about $8,000 from a lock box. Security footage shows the suspect hiding inside the store until closing, then disguising himself as an employee to enter a restricted area around 12:38am. Detectives ask anyone with information to contact Detective Dustin Williams at 985-277-5755 or williams_dj@hammond.org.

Southeastern Louisiana University has named David A. Cavell its 2025 Young Alumnus of the Year, honoring the 2011 business management graduate during the university's Centennial Homecoming celebration. Cavell, now state government affairs director for Dow, Inc. in the Southeast, previously served nearly a decade in the U.S. House of Representatives as district director for Congressman Garret Graves and district representative for Congressman Bill Cassidy, and has held leadership roles in higher education and political campaigns. He will be recognized at the Alumni Awards Evening on Oct. 17, which will also honor 2025 Alumnus of the Year District Attorney Scott Perrilloux and other distinguished faculty, staff, and alumni.

St. Tammany Parish Coroner Dr. Christopher Tape is asking the public for help locating relatives of two women who recently died of natural causes in unrelated incidents. Investigators say 67-year-old Dale Serene Martin was found dead July 15 at her home on Cedarwood Drive in Mandeville; despite extensive searches, no next of kin have been found, and records in her native Trinidad and Tobago show no trace of her family. On August 5, 74-year-old Julia Elaine Brown was discovered deceased at her home in Abita Springs, and efforts to identify relatives have also failed. Brown was reportedly born in Central Europe and adopted by a U.S. military serviceman and his wife, who had no other children. Anyone with information on either woman's family is urged to contact Investigator Chris Knoblauch at 985-781-1150.

Southeastern Louisiana University is inviting soon-to-be graduates to its Grad Fair, a one-stop event for all commencement needs, on Tuesday, Sept. 30 from 9am to 5pm and Wednesday, Oct. 1 from 9am to 3pm in the third-floor Student Union Ballroom. Students can purchase caps and gowns, order class rings and commencement invitations, and take graduation photos while getting information about alumni services as they prepare to celebrate their achievements.

This week, #TeamTangi welcomed Leadership Tangipahoa's Class of 2025-26 to kick off their first class of the year. And what a day! First up, the class met with Parish President Robby Miller and Parish Councilwoman Brigette Delatte Hyde, who outlined the various roles and responsibilities of the administration and the council. From there, the group toured our Emergency Operations Center and heard from Tangipahoa's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Director Dawson Primes. The group joined us for lunch at the Florida Parishes Event Center where Geaux Jobs Director Tina Roper outlined the work her office does and then Arena Director Lane Taillon gave the group a tour of the Arena campus. From there, the class boarded buses for a trip to the Landfill with tours provided by Landfill Administration Director Connie Henry, Landfill Operations Manager Donnie Colona and Public Works Director Andy Currier before heading back to Hammond where the class heard from Animal Services Director Chippy Fitz, Planning Director Tracie Schillace, Building Official Robert Morgan and Community Development Director Bridget Bailey. It was a great day visiting with this dynamic group of emerging leaders in our parish!

Tangipahoa Parish was the site for Thursday's Town Hall Meeting with Speaker of the House Phillip DeVillier and our entire Northshore Legislative Delegation. The event, held at the Columbia Theatre in downtown Hammond, drew a large crowd of business leaders, community activists, and interested residents, who came out to hear about the Legislature's work on key issues like insurance, the state budget, crime, public education, infrastructure improvements, and tax reform. The program was co-sponsored by our friends at Southeastern Louisiana University, the Tangipahoa Chamber, and the St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce.

There will be alternating lane closures using a flagging operation on LA 1062 at a bridge located 0.2 miles north of Firetower Rd. scheduled from Monday, September 22, 2025 through Tuesday, September 23, 2025, from 6am to 6pm, weather permitting, while crews perform roadway boring operations. One lane will remain open.

No restrictions for wide loads.

The following detour will be posted to avoid the lane closures:

Motorists traveling LA 1062 east may take LA 40 east to LA 445, then north to re-intersect LA 1062.

Motorists traveling LA 1062 west may take LA 445 south to LA 40, then west to re-intersect LA 1062.

Opening Week of Fanfare at Southeastern

From Southeastern

A symphony concert, lecture, and musical theater performance are just some of the events scheduled during the opening week of the 40th season of Fanfare, Southeastern Louisiana University's annual fall festival of the arts, humanities and social sciences.

A Then and Now Fanfare lecture from the History and Political Science Department is scheduled Sept. 23, at 12:30pm in the Student Union Theatre. Historian of science, technology, art and philosophy Lily Filson will present "Animating the Divine: Water, Magic, and Knowledge in the Automata of Villa Pratolino."

Filson steps into the world of Renaissance wonder to explain that hidden water-powered machines at a Medici villa were not just dazzling entertainment but were designed to channel celestial forces. Water served as both a magical and scientific medium, animating lifelike statues and symbolizing divine knowledge in a place where art, technology, and spirituality converged. The lecture will trace how thinkers used water to bring statues to life and ideas to light.

On Sept. 25, the Southeastern Wind Symphony will present "Inspirations." Scheduled at 7:30pm in Pottle Auditorium, the free concert will feature music inspired by composers, dances, and history.

The concert will include such standard works as William Schuman's New England Triptych, which is based on the patriotic anthems by William Billings. Grainger's Molly on the Shore is based on Irish Dance music, while Joel Puckett's work "Prelude and Fugato from Mama Dee's Songbook" is a tribute to his grandmother, who, despite numerous hardships through the Great Depression, was the first in his family to earn a music degree. The world premiere of a wind version of Quinn Mason's orchestral work, "Inspiration! Festive Overture," focuses on the power of inspiration.

The Columbia Theatre for the Performing Arts in downtown Hammond will present the Jefferson Performing Arts Society in "Waitress" on Sept. 25, at 7:30pm A hit Broadway musical, Waitress features an original score with music and lyrics by Grammy Award-winner Sara Bareilles. The touring production features a live orchestra conducted by Maestro Dennis Assaf and is co-produced by Southeastern's Development Foundation and Tangi Tourism.

Tickets are $45 for adults and $25 for students. Advance tickets are available online at columbiatheatre.org, at the Columbia Theatre box office at 985-549-2787, Monday through Friday from 11am to 4pm, and one hour prior to each performance.

Fanfare events are free, unless otherwise noted. For more information, contact the Columbia/ Fanfare office at 985-549-2999.

Garden of the Month

From the Gardenettes

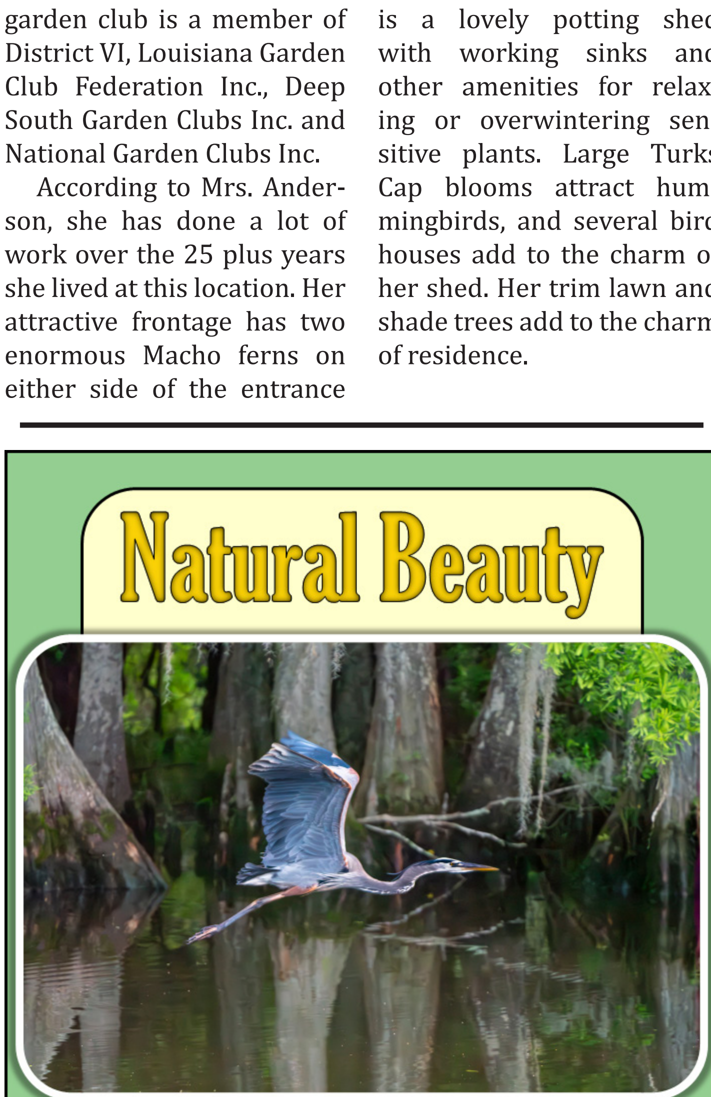
(Photo by Vicky Fannaly): Garden of the Month honors for September went to Jay and Gwen Prevost Anderson on Brown Road. Gardenettes gathered to present the award were Cricket Ayala, Margaret Bailey, Susan Pizani, Ellen Pusey, homeowner Gwen Prevost Anderson, Virginia Hawkins, Mary Hirsch, Karen Hotard, and chairman for the event, Darnell Kimber.

Gwen Prevost Anderson and her husband Jay Anderson received Garden of the Month honors for September from the Gardenettes. The garden club is a member of District VI, Louisiana Garden Club Federation Inc., Deep South Garden Clubs Inc. and National Garden Clubs Inc.

According to Mrs. Anderson, she has done a lot of work over the 25 plus years she lived at this location. Her attractive frontage has two enormous Macho ferns on either side of the entrance and circular beds of Chrysanthemum mounds, Sunpatiens, roses, hostas, and purslane.

In the back of her home is a lovely potting shed with working sinks and other amenities for relaxing or overwintering sensitive plants. Large Turks Cap blooms attract hummingbirds, and several bird houses add to the charm of her shed. Her trim lawn and shade trees add to the charm of residence.

Natural Beauty



This photograph of a gorgeous native blue heron was taken by Paul V. Perez in the swamps of the Tchefuncte River in July 2025. The image is a compelling depiction of the serenity and natural beauty of our home in southern Louisiana.

Fall Garden Day & Plant Sale at LSU AgCenter Hammond

From LSU AgCenter

Hammond, LA – Mark your calendars! The LSU AgCenter Hammond Research Station invites you to its fifth annual Fall Garden Day and Plant Sale on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 7:30am to 1:00pm at 21549 Old Covington Highway, Hammond, LA 70403.

This family-friendly event will take place rain or shine and offers something for everyone — from seasoned gardeners to curious newcomers.

Browse a wide selection of high-quality plants grown at the station, including chrysanthemums, Louisiana Super Plants, annual bedding, pollinator plants, houseplants, herbs, veggies, trees, shrubs, and unique species from our research station.

Enjoy educational sessions led by LSU AgCenter specialists on topics such as seasonal landscape design, pest and weed control, vegetable gardening, lawn care, and the latest research updates.

Fun for the whole family! The Tangipahoa Master Gardeners host fun children's activities, a mini plant sale, plant swap, education booths, and a garden shop in tandem!

Support Local Horticulture - Proceeds from the plant sale help advance the station's mission to support Louisiana's ornamental horticulture industry. This year, funds will go toward restoring the Piney Woods Garden — damaged during Hurricane Ida — and upgrading plant production areas to better serve research and outreach efforts.

There is a $5 parking fee for each vehicle. For more information about activities and event schedule, please visit https://tinyurl.com/y6sbrxm4.

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TOWN OF KENTWOOD
June 12, 2025
REGULAR MEETING

The Town Council of the Town of Kentwood, Louisiana held its regular session on Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 6:00 P.M., at the Kentwood City Hall with Mayor Irma T. Gordon presiding. Mayor Gordon called the meeting to order following the opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.
The roll was called with the following results:
Present: Xavier Diamond, Michael Hall, Paul Stewart and Jakoiya Wilkerson.
Absent: Gary Callihan.

A motion was offered by Councilman Diamond, second by Councilman Hall and unanimously carried to approve minutes from last month's meeting, May 1, 2025.

Financial Reports will be submitted to Council members electronically.

Old Business:
A motion was offered by Councilman Hall, second by Councilman Diamond and unanimously carried to adopt Ordinance No. 01 of 2025, to Abandon the Alley in Block 39.
The roll was called with the following results:
Yeas: Xavier Diamond, Michael Hall, Paul Stewart and Jakoiya Wilkerson.
Nays: None.
Absent and Not Voting: Gary Callihan.

Sealed bids for the Official Journal were opened. Two bids were received:
The Daily Star – $5.70 per square of 100 words or a fraction thereof.
The Tangi Times – $5.50 per square of 100 words per insertion.

A motion was offered by Councilman Hall, second by Councilwoman Wilkerson and unanimously carried to approve the lowest bid from the Tangi Times as our Official Journal for July 2025 – June 2026.

New Business:
A motion was offered by Councilman Diamond, second by Councilman Stewart and unanimously carried to adopt the millage rates and adopt the Millage Resolution.

Bruce Harrell, CPA, presented the Compiled Financial Statements FYE 12.31.24.

Mayor Gordon and Council discussed setting a deadline for Sher Singh, the Pilot Store's owner, to fix the road on MLK, where the 18-wheelers have messed up. No specific date was set.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Wilkerson, second by Councilman Hall and unanimously carried to approve the advertisement for Bids, for the Construction of a Restroom, Concession Stand and Storage Building, measuring 22ft X 32 ft, at the Kentwood Recreation Park, located at 72341 Hwy. 1051, Kentwood, LA 70444.

A motion was offered by Councilman Hall, second by Councilman Stewart and unanimously carried to approve the advertisement for Bids, for Playground Equipment at the Kentwood Recreation Park, located at 72341 Hwy. 1051, Kentwood, LA 70444.

A motion was offered by Councilman Stewart, second by Councilman Diamond and unanimously carried to approve the advertisement for Bids, for Playground Equipment at the Kentwood MLK Park, located at 913 Ave L, Kentwood, LA 70444.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Wilkerson, second by Councilman Stewart and unanimously carried to approve the advertisement for Bids for the Construction of a restroom, measuring 14 ft X 15 ft restroom at our MLK Park, located at 913 Ave L, Kentwood, LA 70444.

Mayor Gordon discussed and gave an update on the Substantial Completion for the Gravity Sewer Rehabilitation Project. She informed everyone that the project was near completion. The Town will need to seek additional funding options to cover the lining issues between G-9 and G-10 manholes.

A motion was offered by Councilman Hall, second by Councilman Stewart and unanimously carried to approve Chief Kazerooni's recommendation to hire Addison Summers as a part-time dispatcher, at a rate of $9.75/hr.

A motion was offered by Councilman Hall, second by Councilman Diamond and unanimously carried to approve Chief Kazerooni's recommendation to hire Ketrenna Hackett as a part-time dispatcher, at a rate of $9.75/hr.

A motion was offered Councilman Stewart, second by Councilman Hall and unanimously carried to approve Chief Kazerooni's recommendation to hire Frankie Solomon as a part-time dispatcher, at a rate of $9.75/hr.

A motion was offered by Councilman Hall, second by Councilman Stewart and unanimously carried to approve Chief Kazerooni's recommendation to hire Cote Licciardi as a full-time police officer, at a rate of $15.50/hr. He will be assigned as our School Resource Officer (SRO), and DARE Officer.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Wilkerson, second by Councilman Hall and unanimously carried to approve Fire Chief Schrimsher's recommendation to hire Christopher James Chaisson as a full-time firefighter at a rate of $10/hr.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Wilkerson, second by Councilman Diamond and unanimously carried to approve Fire Chief Schrimsher's recommendation to hire Brendan DiGiovanni as a part-time firefighter, at a rate of $9.75/hr.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Wilkerson, second by Councilman Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn.

Fredrika M. Ruffin, Town Clerk Irma T. Gordon, Mayor

Cost of notice:$ 75.90

TOWN OF KENTWOOD
July 3, 2025
REGULAR MEETING

The Town Council of the Town of Kentwood, Louisiana held its regular session on Thursday, July 3, 2025 at 6:00 P.M., included a public hearing at 5:45 p.m. with continued session after the hearing, at the Kentwood City Hall with Mayor Irma T. Gordon presiding. Mayor Gordon called the meeting to order following the opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.
The roll was called with the following results:
Present: Xavier Diamond, Michael Hall, Paul Stewart and Jakoiya Wilkerson.
Absent: Gary Callihan.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Wilkerson, second by Councilman Stewart and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of our June 5th meeting.

A motion was offered by Councilman Stewart, second by Councilman Diamond and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of our June 12th meeting.

Financial Reports will be emailed to the Council Members.

Ronnie Harrell, President of the Zoning Board, gave recommendation from the zoning board to deny the zoning change request from Yazoria Speed, property located at 1403 9th Street/Harold J. Smith Thruway, requests property to be rezoned from A1, Agriculture to R1M to Single-family Residential, Detached Conventional and Non-Conventional Districts.

A motion was offered by Councilman Diamond, second by Councilwoman Wilkerson and unanimously carried to approve the Zoning Board's recommendation denying the rezoning request from Yazoria Speed, for her property located at 1403 9th Street/ Harold J. Smith Thruway.

The roll was called with the following votes:
Yeas: Xavier Diamond Councilman Hall, Councilman Stewart and Councilwoman Wilkerson.
Nays: None.
Abstained: None.
Absent: Gary Callihan.

Minda Raybourn, Auditor, presented the Audit Report FYE 12.31.24.

A motion was offered by Councilman Hall, second by Councilwoman Wilkerson and unanimously carried to approve the FYE 12.31.24 Audit.

Mayor Gordon, the Council, and Bruce Harrell discussed the 2026 – 2028 Intergovernmental Agreement between Fire District #2 and the Town of Kentwood.

Mayor Gordon and the Council discussed the Curfew and its hours. They also discussed looking into revisiting the penalties for violating the curfew ordinance because they are outdated. Chief Kazerooni reminded everyone that sentencing or punishment of juveniles will have to go through the 21st District Court Juvenile Division.

Mayor Gordon and the Council discussed issues with the property line, east and south of the Community Center. Mayor Gordon informed everyone that the Town can give a servitude to the owner for an encroachment.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Wilkerson, second by Councilman Hall and unanimously carried to adjourn.

Fredrika M. Ruffin, Town Clerk Irma T. Gordon, Mayor

Cost of notice:$ 48.40

TOWN OF KENTWOOD
August 7, 2025
REGULAR MEETING

The Town Council of the Town of Kentwood, Louisiana held its regular session on Thursday, August 7, 2025 at 6:00 P.M., at the Kentwood City Hall with Mayor Irma T. Gordon presiding. Mayor Gordon called the meeting to order following the opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.
The roll was called with the following results:
Present: Gary Callihan, Xavier Diamond, Michael Hall, Paul Stewart and Jakoiya Wilkerson.
Absent: None.

Mayor Gordon and the Council recognized and thank Mr. Lawrence Edward Brenner, Sr. for his 50 Years of Service as a Louisiana EMT.

A motion was offered by Councilman Hall, second by Councilwoman Wilkerson and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of our July 3rd meeting.

A motion was offered by Councilman Callihan, second by Councilman Stewart and unanimously carried to approve the Financial Reports as submitted.

Mayor Gordon gave an update on Zoning for Agriculture Districts. She informed everyone that residents that own property in Agriculture Districts do not have to get their property rezoned to Residential Districts. Per Attorney Simpson, residential structures can be put in Agriculture Districts, without going before the Zoning Board.

Robert Hendrick Ortega was not present for his Nuisance Hearing. A motion was offered by Councilman Callihan, second by Councilman Stewart and unanimously carried giving Attorney Simpson permission to move forward with the next step. Per Attorney Simpson, the Town can legally go on the property, clean the overgrown weeds and add the price to his property tax by putting a lien on it. We will have to have Chief Kazerooni to expect the vehicles inspected to make sure they fall under the category as being "abandoned or inoperable."

Sher Singh, Pilot store owner, and his contractor, John Barry, provided the following update on the following:
MLK Street – They requested a month to provide a schedule and to get the plans for the road DOTD approved.

A motion was offered by Councilman Diamond, second by Councilman Stewart and unanimously carried to give Sher Singh and his contractor a month to report back before the Town Officials with a plan of schedule on how they plan to adjust; and move forward with the necessary repairs, and give the Town a month to come up with a plan as well.

The red clay dirt – They will meet with Russ Carter and Mr. Neal Cutrer to check out the red clay dirt and come up with a solution. An update will be presented at our next meeting.

Drainage from commercial property – They will meet with Mayor Gordon, Russ Carter and Mr. Neal Cutrer to look at the drainage issue that is undermining the Town's property by the Ave I well site. An update will be presented at our next meeting.

Mayor Gordon discussed the fencing at the Community Center Park. She informed everyone that the Town had it surveyed. The back wall of the building that houses some apartments and 2 businesses are on the Town's property.

Mayor Gordon and the Council discussed servitudes for encroachments to the owners of the property line of the Community Center.

A motion was offered by Councilman Hall, second by Councilman Callihan and unanimously carried to approve Chief Kazerooni's recommendation to hire Stephanie McKenzie Carter as a part-time dispatcher, at $9.75/hr.

A motion was offered by Councilman Callihan, second by Councilman Diamond and unanimously carried to approve Fire Chief Schrimsher's recommendation to hire Samuel Gilliland as a part-time firefighter, at a rate of $9.75/hr.

A motion was offered by Councilwoman Wilkerson, second by Councilman Callihan and unanimously carried to approve Fire Chief Schrimsher's recommendation to hire Paul Wyman as a full-time firefighter, at a rate of $10/hr. He is currently a part-time firefighter.

Mayor Gordon and the Council discussed updates on the Recreation Parks that the Town received the $500,000 funding for Capital Outlay, through the State of Louisiana.

Mayor Gordon and the Council discussed the possible increase in water rates.

Mayor Gordon and the Council discussed the importance of water meters.

A motion was offered by Councilman Callihan, second by Councilman Diamond and unanimously carried to adjourn.

Fredrika M. Ruffin, Town Clerk Irma T. Gordon, Mayor

Cost of notice:$ 67.65

MELISSA M. STILLEY
SUPERINTENDENT

TOM TOLAR
BOARD PRESIDENT

NOTICE

DEADLINE: September 27, 2025

The Tangipahoa Parish School System (TPSS) is now accepting applications for the following:

POSITION: School Finance Account Clerk - 11 Month Employee

SALARY: $26,591 - $37,194 (Based on verified years of relevant experience)
+ an additional 4 - 6% FAC Stipend

BENEFITS:
- Same working calendar as teachers
- Participation in teacher's retirement system
- Working hours 7:30am-3:00pm Monday-Friday

LOCATION: School Site To Be Determined

CRITERIA: Must have on or before the advertised deadline:
- High School Diploma or Equivalency Certificate with 2 years of Accounting and/or Bookkeeping experience; or
- Associates Degree in Office Administration/Accounting or related coursework at a State Approved Vocational School or State Approved Business School; or
- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Business

Cost of notice:$ 75.90

Applications for this position will only be accepted through the Frontline Recruit and Hire website: www.applitrack.com/Tangischools/onlineapp. Paper applications and/or email scanned attachment(s) will not be accepted or processed for consideration. Please have all updated certificates and official transcripts uploaded at the time of submission.

Submit your application through the Frontline Recruit and Hire portal before the deadline of **September 27, 2025,** even if a previous paper application is on file with TPSS Human Resources. Previous paper or email applications will not be considered.

IMPORTANT: Please be advised that all applicants who apply for this position should check their email account daily, **including their SPAM folder,** for communications regarding this advertisement.

The Tangipahoa Parish School System is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability.

DATE ADVERTISEMENT POSTED: September 18 , 2025

Publish 9/19,22,24&26 **Cost of notice $31.50**

TANGIPAHOA PARISH
SCHOOL SYSTEM
59656 PULESTON ROAD AMITE, LA 70422 P: 985 748 7153 F: 985 748 8587 TANGISCHOOLS.ORG

Consolidated Gravity Drainage District #1
of Tangipahoa Parish
48571 Highway 51 North
Tickfaw, LA 70466

Notice Posted: September 18, 2025

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

5:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING

1. Call to Order
2. Please silence all cell phones
3. Roll Call
4. Prayer
5. Pledge of Allegiance (All Veterans and active military,
   please render the proper salute)
6. Visitors
7. Public Comment
8. Adoption of Minutes of Regular Meeting dated September 10, 2025
9. Drainage Plans – Funky Munky – PEEC Engineering – District 9
10. Drainage Plans – Corbin's Cove –
    Quality Engineering & Surveying, LLC – District 4
11. Project Updates – Spangler Engineering
12. Administrator's Report
a.August Financial Report
b.Additional Building Maintenance
13. Personnel
14. Legal Matters
15. Commissioners' Privileges
16. Adjourn

For: Joey Mayeaux
President
By: Stanan Capdeboscq
Secretary-Treasurer

In Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need secial assistance,
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Stanan Capdeboscq at (985) 542-4292 or stanan@tangipahoadrainage.org, prior to 3 pm CST on the day preceding the scheduled meeting, describing the assistance that is necessary.

Cost of notice:$ 45.00

SEARCH MORE PUBLIC NOTICES AT:
louisianapublicnotice.com

HEARTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

It's not just about romance, but about how to build trust and mutual understanding in all relationships.

And perhaps most importantly, workshops like this help prevent bigger problems down the road. Learning what unhealthy relationships look like — whether in person or online — can reduce risks of emotional abuse, violence, or harassment. Research shows that teaching healthy relationship skills early on makes a real difference.

So mark your calendar for Tuesday, September 23, from 5:30 to 6:30pm at the Kentwood Library. Bring your teen, your questions, maybe even your curiosity about what "situationship" means these days.

The more families talk about dating before the fireworks start, the better chance everyone has of coming out stronger, safer, and a little less confused about the whole thing.

Teal Season Opens in Louisiana on Sept. 20

From LDWF

The 2025 teal hunting season begins Saturday (Sept. 20) statewide and runs through Sept. 28, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) announced. Only teal species (blue-winged, green-winged and cinnamon teal) may be harvested during the early September season. Teal may also be harvested during the regular duck hunting season, which begins in November.

All waterfowl hunters 16 years and older, even those who are not otherwise required to purchase a license, must have a Federal Duck Stamp. Go to https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/federal-duck-stamps for more information.

Those 18 and older hunting teal are required to have a basic hunting license and must be HIP certified. Youth 17 and under do not need a hunting license. To purchase a hunting license, go to https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/hunting-licenses-permits-tags.

Many LDWF Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) throughout the state offer teal hunting opportunities. The most popular include: Pass-a-Loutre WMA, Atchafalaya Delta WMA, Pointe-aux-Chenes WMA, Sherburne WMA, Dewey Wills WMA and Russell Sage WMA. For a complete list of WMAs open to teal hunting and more information on WMA teal hunting, go to https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/seasons-and-regulations.

All visitors to LDWF WMAs 18 years or older must have either a WMA Access Permit, Senior Hunting/Fishing License, Louisiana Sportsman's Paradise License or Lifetime Hunting/Fishing License. Go to https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/wmarefuge-conservation-area-licenses-and-permits for more information.

For more information on teal hunting in Louisiana, go to https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/subhome/waterfowl or contact Jason Olszak at jolszak@wlf.la.gov.

NHS Program to Bring Companionship to Seniors and Hope to Shelter Dogs

From Northshore Humane Society

Northshore Humane Society is proud to announce the launch of Golden Paws, a heartwarming new outreach initiative that connects adoptable shelter dogs with elderly residents in local nursing homes. Designed to foster therapeutic companionship and community engagement, Golden Paws delivers mutual benefits for both senior citizens and rescue animals.

Through this unique program, seniors in partnering care facilities experience the joy and comfort of regular visits from friendly, adoptable dogs. In turn, these dogs gain valuable socialization, increased visibility, and greater chances of finding a forever home.

"Our mission has always been about creating a better life for animals. Golden Paws allows us to expand that mission and enrich the lives of people in our community as well," said Scott Bernier, CEO of Northshore Humane Society. "It's a win-win for everyone involved."

The program also promotes community involvement by offering meaningful volunteer opportunities to individuals who assist with the visits and coordinate outreach efforts.

Golden Paws is made possible through a partnership with About You In Home Care and Vital Medical Staffing, whose compassionate teams bring added value to the initiative. Through this collaboration, seniors and their families also gain access to vital resources including:

Information on senior services and special needs support

Veteran care programs

Employment and caregiver opportunities

This comprehensive approach ensures that Golden Paws not only brings comfort and companionship to seniors, but also connects them with the support they deserve.

Northshore Humane Society invites the community to support this initiative by volunteering, donating, or simply helping spread the word. For more information about Golden Paws or to get involved, please visit https://www.northshorehumane.org/golden-paws-connecting-shelter-pets-and-elderly or contact NHS Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator, Maggie Stokes, at mstokes@nshumane.org.

OP-ED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

lations would have saved consumers, businesses and insurers $80 billion in healthcare costs by 2025.

Unfortunately, with the advent of the administration of President Joe Biden progress was halted on this issue. The Biden administration refused to pressure hospitals and health care plans to provide price transparency for patients.

As noted by Ilaria Santangelo, Research Director of PatientRightsAdvocate.org, under the Biden administration compliance with the regulations was "low" and "hospitals were not meaningfully penalized enough for non-compliance."

Thus, President Trump was forced to take additional action. He followed up his initial Executive Order with a new Presidential Action on February 25, 2025.

The President's new directive required "the disclosure of the actual prices of items and services, not estimates." In addition, "pricing information" must be "standardized and easily comparable across hospitals and health plans."

Hospitals must now attest under penalty of law that their pricing data is accurate and complete. To ensure these actions are taken, the Trump administration created enhanced enforcement procedures. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) can issue civil fines up to $5,500 per day for non-compliant hospitals, based on bed count.

Sadly, hospitals in Louisiana are particularly resistant to follow the Trump transparency requirements. A recent study by PatentRightsAdvocate.org determined that only 15% of the state's hospitals are compliant with price transparency, worse than the national average of 21.1%.

Even more troubling, only 13% of the state's healthcare facilities posted adequate information to allow for "meaningful price comparisons."

Fortunately, President Trump is reversing the inaction of the last administration by fining hospitals that are refusing to provide patient transparency. For example, the Community Care Hospital of New Orleans was fined $93,214 by CMS for "repeated failures to post pricing information required under federal law."

Therefore, in a multitude of areas, patients are facing higher costs. Consequently, political leaders need to take bold action to address this crisis.

Heeding this call is U.S. Senator John Kennedy (R-LA), who introduced the "Same Care, Lower Cost Act" on May 6, 2025. If passed, the legislation will "fix a part of Medicare's billing structure that allows hospital systems to charge patients for outpatient care at more expensive hospital rates—even when the medical procedures could be done safely at non-hospital settings."

As Kennedy states, "Patients should only pay for the care they receive, not for the sign on the door or where they get treated. My Same Care, Lower Cost Act is a common-sense reform that expands patients' health care options, creates greater transparency, and reduces taxpayer burden.

Senator Kennedy believes that this reform legislation may save Medicare recipients up to $134 billion over ten years "in lower premiums and cost sharing."

This legislation is a perfect complement to President Trump's push to enact price transparency. Hopefully, it will encourage more Louisiana healthcare facilities to follow the federal rules on patient pricing. The disturbing evidence of Louisiana hospitals refusing to comply proves why President Trump's strengthened enforcement is essential.

With President Trump leading on transparency and Senator Kennedy advancing ambitious reform legislation, Louisiana has a unique opportunity to become a model for healthcare cost reduction through transparency. Lower healthcare costs will make Louisiana a more attractive state for business relocation and expansion, while transparent pricing will help families make informed healthcare decisions.

In Louisiana, enhanced healthcare costs are one of the biggest reasons why so many people are leaving the state. Since 2020, over 110,000 residents have left Louisiana for better opportunities in other states. Obviously, dramatic change is needed.

Louisiana must build on President Trump's groundbreaking transparency initiatives. Trump's hospital price transparency orders, both in 2019 and 2025, represent a significant opportunity to control healthcare costs for Louisiana businesses and families.

With Senator Kennedy taking the lead in introducing bold legislation, Louisiana's healthcare industry must step forward to complete the cost revolution that President Trump started in 2019. This will ensure Louisiana's economic competitiveness for many years to come.

Jeff Crouere is a native New Orleanian and his award-winning program, "Ringside Politics," airs Saturdays from Noon until 1 p.m. CT nationally on Real America's Voice TV Network & AmericasVoice.News and weekdays from 7-9 a.m. & 6-7 p.m. CT on WGSO 990-AM & Wgso.com. He is a political columnist, the author of America's Last Chance, and provides regular commentaries on the Jeff Crouere YouTube channel and at Crouere.net. For more information, email him at jcrouere@gmail.com.

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Southeastern Nursing Program Ranked in National Top Ten

From Southeastern

Southeastern Louisiana University's Nursing Program has been named among the Top 10 Accelerated BSN programs in the country for 2026 by RegisteredNursing.org, an organization that provides nursing resources for students and current nurses, including licensure and certification information, job and resume information, salary data, and more.

Southeastern was ranked seventh in the nation. In the Top 10 with schools such as Georgetown University and Ohio State University, Southeastern was the only university from Louisiana included in the Top 25.

"This distinction is more than just a ranking," said RegisteredNursing.org Outreach Coordinator Sally Worthington. "It reflects the daily work your faculty, staff, and students put into creating a strong academic experience, one that prepares graduates to step into nursing careers with confidence."

"Southeastern's College of Nursing and Health Sciences has a long-standing history of producing skilled, industry prepared graduates, with over 5,600 nursing alumni since 1964," said Southeastern President William S. Wainwright. "We are proud the program is getting national recognition for its proven history of success in talent development."

The methodology for the rankings begins with obtaining NCLEX-RN exam pass rates for all RN programs (ADN, BSN, and Direct-Entry MSN) on a state-by-state basis. The previous three years of available information was requested. Once the data was obtained, the programs with the following characteristics were filtered out:

Programs that have closed or will be closing at the time of data collection

Programs with no pass rate data available for the previous 1 or 2 years, depending on the state and number of years of data available

Programs with only one year of pass rates

Once non-qualifying programs had been filtered, the ranking process began. NCLEX-RN pass rates were analyzed going back to the most recent years of data available, up to three years; each state may have varying years.

Schools' pass rates were averaged together and weighted by the recency of the exam; for example, exam pass rates in 2024 count more towards overall rankings than scores from 2023.

"Our students enrolled in the accelerated program are consistently successful on the NCLEX-RN exam because they come to us having been successful in another degree, are more seasoned with life experiences, and adapt well to a rigorous curriculum," said College of Nursing and Health Sciences Dean Ann Carruth. "Our program has been in existence long before many others in the state, and we are proud of our track record. Graduates are sought from a multitude of health systems and rise in ranks within organizations."

"We are particularly proud of our partnership with St. Tammany Parish Health System in offering a dedicated north shore cohort for our students," added School of Nursing Department Head Lindsay Domiano.

Southeastern's Nursing Program recently received its seventh Nightingale Award for the Nursing School of the Year from the Louisiana Nurses Foundation. For more information about the program, go to southeastern.edu/nursing.

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SPORTS

Friday Night Recap

By PABLO CREWES
Tangi Times Sportswriter

If anyone had the Jewel Sumner Cowboys as the last unscathed team in the area – congrats. In a battle of 2-0 squads on Friday night, the 'Pokes took it to the previously unbeaten Loranger Wolves.

Not far away from there, the two teams who fell victim to Sumner squared off under the water tower. That's where Kentwood picked up their first win of the season when the Kangaroos knocked off the St. Helena Hawks, 46-30.

Also claiming their first victory of the season were the Amite Warriors, who had little trouble with the Independence Tigers in a 43-7 road win.

Hammond was also on the road, pummeling East St. John 37-7 to get the Tornadoes to 2-1 on the year.

Meanwhile in the Swamp, Ponchatoula dropped a 55-28 decision to Live Oak, the third straight setback to start the season for the Green Wave.

Another Livingston Parish team, the Albany Hornets, took to the road and fell 47-26 at East Feliciana.

AHS's archrival picked up their first win without breaking a sweat — Springfield won via forfeit over Crescent City Christian. Officially, the Bulldogs won the game 2-0.

Denham Springs got back on the winning track with a 33-0 win over Woodlawn (BR), while Walker fell for the second straight time, 48-37, at home against Central.

And in MAIS action, Oak Forest got back to the .500 mark after a 30-3 thumping of Columbia Academy. The win puts the Yellow Jackets at 2-2 on the year.

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Building 3

From Page 1

Tangi Times photo

Above, North Oaks Health System's Board of Commissioners Chair Mark Mobley prepares to officially cut the ribbon opening North Oaks Clinic Building 3. Pictured, from left, are: North Oaks COO Michael Watkins; Tangipahoa Parish President Robby Miller; Dr. Tony Dennis with North Oaks ENT & Allergy Clinic; Lt. Corey Michelli with the Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office; North Oaks Board of Commissioners member Tonia Canale; North Oaks CFO Mark Anderson; North Oaks Board of Commissioners member Dr. Amber Narro; Dr. Georges Tanios with North Oaks Hematology & Oncology; North Oaks Board of Commissioners member Joycelyn Lee; Louisiana Department of Health Undersecretary Drew Maranto; North Oaks President & CEO Michele Kidd Sutton, FACHE; Louisiana State Representative Kimberly Landry Coates; North Oaks Board of Commissioners Chair Mark Mobley; William Walkenhorst with The Lemoine Company, LLC; Angelle Lavergne Terry with Washer Hill Lipscomb Cabaniss Architecture, LLC; North Oaks Board of Commissioners Vice Chair Chris Broadwater; Todd Pierce with The Lemoine Company, LLC; Sarah Gravois Hoang with Washer Hill Lipscomb Cabaniss Architecture, LLC; Wills Hover with The Lemoine Company, LLC; North Oaks Board of Commissioners member Jeff Pegler; Micah Morgan with Washer Hill Lipscomb Cabaniss Architecture, LLC; North Oaks Board of Commissioners member Dr. Ann Carruth; and Emily Guidry with Washer Hill Lipscomb Cabaniss Architecture, LLC.

over $2.7 billion in estimated economic impact, their investments create jobs, attract top talent and improve infrastructure. This new building means better care, more employment opportunities and a stronger economy. We're proud to have such a forward-thinking, community-focused partner helping make Tangipahoa the best parish in the state."

After the ceremony, guests were invited to enjoy a catered breakfast including hot and iced coffee from the new PJ's campus location. Attendees were also invited to tour the interior of the clinic's newest building.

Building 3 is designed to centralize and streamline care for patients across the region. It was also designed with patient experience in mind. It anchors campus connectivity through covered walkways and interior corridors that seamlessly link adjacent buildings and the hospital itself. Expanded areas for patient drop-off and pick-up to improve convenience and flow also have been incorporated.

Designed by Washer Hill Lipscomb Cabaniss Architecture, LLC, and constructed by The Lemoine Company, LLC, the new building is part of North Oaks' broader plan to modernize healthcare infrastructure and increase access to high-quality, local services.

Including the Building 3 addition, North Oaks has invested approximately $80 million over the past 3 years in facility upgrades and expansions. Looking ahead, North Oaks projects to double that investment with an estimated $160 million earmarked for continued growth and modernization over the next three years.

For more information, contact North Oaks Public Relations at (985) 230-6647 or visit northoaks.org.

North Oaks Health System is Louisiana's largest independent hospital service district and is strategically based between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. For 65 years, the health system has embraced a mission to improve lives every time, every touch. Facilities in Tangipahoa and Livingston parishes include an acute care hospital that serves the region as a Level II trauma center and primary stroke center, a medical rehabilitation hospital, two outpatient diagnostic and treatment centers, an outpatient surgery center, three outpatient rehabilitation clinics, four urgent care clinics, a hospice and a growing physician group for primary and specialty care. Learn more at northoaks.org.

GUMBO COOK-OFF FUNDRAISER
TANGI ANIMAL FRIENDS
Downtown Hammond Between SW Railroad & Cate St.
NOVEMBER 1, 2025
Gumbo Tasting: $20 in Advance, $25 at Gate
Children Under Age 10: FREE
Gate Opens at 12:30, Tasting from 1 pm - 4 pm
Games & Prizes for Children
Parade of Prizes Raffle, Music, & More

Support our Spay Neuter Program!

We Need:
Cooking Teams and Sponsors!
For more info contact TAF: TangiAnimalFriends@gmail.com

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to learn about updates in District 10

Wednesday
October 1
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Safety Tip of the Day

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You're walking down the street and an individual is cat calling and harassing you..
You want to put as much distance between you and this person and you are going to ignore them.
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Horoscopes

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4th week of September

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Partnerships require extra attention this week, Aries. Focus on clear communication and mutual understanding. Compromise will lead to positive outcomes in all situations.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
This week your health and wellness comes into focus, Taurus. Consider a new exercise program or make adjustments to your diet. It's also a good time to get organized.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, you might feel a surge of inspiration related to hobbies, artistic pursuits or even your social life. Embrace all of the creative endeavors that will come your way.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
You may find yourself redecorating or enjoying quiet time in the house, Cancer. Your life right now puts a strong focus on domestic pursuits and you may spend more time at home.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, your mind is sharp and curious. Consider taking a class or joining a group hobby you find engaging. This week largely will be about local connections.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, financial stability is a key theme in your life right now. Review your budget and look for practical ways to save money. You also may have to seek ways to boost your income..

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
This week is a great time for self-improvement and setting new goals, Libra. Project confidence when interacting with your professional network, and pursue what matters to you.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
You are comfortable being out of the spotlight, Scorpio. This will serve you well when you spend some time in quiet reflection this week. Look inward and assess your goals.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Connect with your friends or community and take part in group activities that bring you joy, Sagittarius. You might just find new inspiration to widen your social network.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Your professional life takes center stage this week, Capricorn. Opportunities for recognition and advancement may pop up. Showcase your people skills.

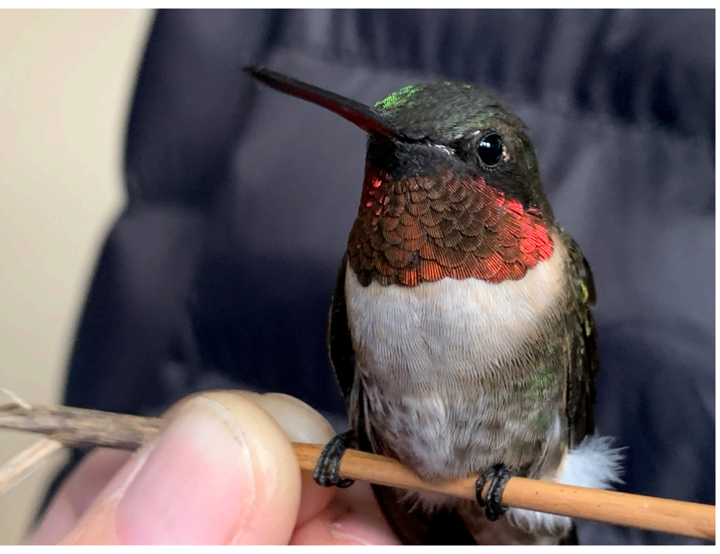
AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, broaden your perspective. This is a fine week for learning new things or engaging with novel ideas. Embrace any challenges that get you thinking.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, you might be dealing with financial matters that require collaboration with family members. It is important to have open conversation before reaching any conclusions.

Our Wild, Wild World

By Kasia Perkowska

The Tiny yet Mighty Hummingbird



Since last week we learned about the history of the ever-ancient alligator, in honor of Old Hardhide before he went into his winter slumber, let's discuss something a little less toothy this week. In fact, they have no teeth at all, but they can go head-to-head with alligators on spunk and protecting their territory. I'm referring to the tiniest bird of them all: the hummingbird.

These tiny little birds weigh slightly more than a penny and are around 3 inches long, beak to tail. In Louisiana, we only have one that breeds here – the Ruby Throated Hummingbird.

They start their migration in February from Central America and Mexico and arrive here in March. The colorful males arrive two weeks prior to the females to stake out and secure their territories. As soon as the females arrive, the males start wooing them by performing a "shuttle display" to impress them.

Once mating occurs, the males go on their merry way to hang out with the rest of the boys, and the nest building, as well as the raising of the chicks, is left entirely to the females. Mom constructs the nest out of spiderwebs and soft plant matter and covers them with lichen as camouflage.

The reason they construct their nests out of spiderwebs is to allow the nest to expand and grow with the babies, ensuring they don't fall or get blown out.

The female typically lays two eggs, one day apart. Her eggs are the size of TicTac candies.

Compared to a human, a hummingbird egg is the equivalent to us having a 25-pound baby, and she carries two of them!

The babies fledge when they're about 21 days old, during which time Mama is already off building a new nest to raise another set of babies. Hummingbirds eat nectar, but much of their diet consists of insects.

Hummingbirds are not only arial acrobats; they're also little fly catchers. They eat small insects like spiders and gnats, which provides their bodies with protein, and nectar provides their bodies with sugar for energy.

In the fall, they head south again, and in September, our winter hummingbirds start to arrive. For those who like to put out feeders, now is the time to start putting them out again.

It's best to use feeders that are easy to clean because even the smallest amount of mold can harm a hummingbird's health, sometimes resulting in their demise. Feeders should be hung where they'll be visible, but not in direct sunlight. Since hummers are extremely territorial, it's best to hang the feeders out of sight of each other.

Please only feed a clear commercially available solution, or make your own, instead of using anything that has red dye in it. These are very harmful to our precious little friends, so let's do our best to help keep them healthy.

A simple homemade solution is one part regular sugar to 4 parts warm water. Nectar should be changed every one to two days in the summer and every 3-5 days in colder months.

To avoid attracting wasps or bees, use feeders without any yellow parts. Never use anything sticky, like Vaseline, to deter them, because if the wind blows the wrong way, it may push the hummingbird into it, making a sticky mess and possibly preventing it from being able to fly.

These little birds beat their tiny wings between 50-70 times per second, and they can fly forward, backwards, sideways, and even hover! Their wings move in a figure 8 shape, or the infinity symbol. They can perch and stand but are unable to walk due to their tiny legs.

They are the feistiest birds on the planet! Extremely territorial, all of them chase competitors away, and they are very possessive over feeders. While they are small, they are definitely mighty!

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